splendours of the hall against the horrors of the dungeon. The lordly towers of Cardiff still tell us of the weary years of solitude and blindness dragged on by him whose foot was the first planted upon the ransomed battlements of the Holy City. Corfe Castle has its 'tower of hunger,' though no Dante has arisen to give it immortality; but poet and antiquary alike have told us

'What shrieks through Berkeley's ramparts ring;'

and we in these days and these islands can hardly realise the times when, within this very city, the 'Pearl of Britanny' lingered on from childhood to old age, doomed by the jealousy of those whom Nature had marked out as her guardians. 'The age of chivalry is past:' so, we may trust, is that of bondage and of lawlessness—of force met by force and fraud by fraud. Yet let us not forget that amid the storms of feudal anarchy the tree of English freedom took firmer root,—that, save for passing through the fiery ordeal of Norman despotism, the liberties of an earlier day might have withered and died away as they have done in other lands which once showed as fair a promise. Of those times our castles are the still living witnesses, but surely every trace of a modern hand takes away from their venerable majesty. They tell wholly of the past: it is impossible to pass beneath their frowning gateways, to look down upon their dens of torment, without a feeling of gratitude that they are ruined and desolate. They are faithful witnesses with which we may not tamper, fallen giants with whom it becomes us not to trifle. Every feeling is best gratified by the sight of a castle wholly deserted: guarded and fenced in, it may be scrupulously preserved from further dilapidation: whole and entire is its masonry, but with every thing suggestive of human habitation swept away. A castle used as a modern dwelling-house is indeed a sad sight, after Kidwelly and Pembroke, Chepstow and Caerphilly.

The author then referred to an instance of restoration at Oyster-mouth-castle, Glamorganshire, as one where the illusion of antiquity was destroyed, while distinct testimony of the past has been swept away by it. Nor could he advocate the restoration of ruined churches. Mr. Sharpe had skilfully and successfully restored, on paper, several of the shattered windows of Tintern Abbey; but he should be very sorry to see anything of the sort carried out in practice, even if a few fragments of the original work were to be brought back to their place again. Primæval antiquities ran little chance of suffering from restoration, yet it was well known that a large rocking stone was lately displaced in sheer wantonness by some workmen employed on the South Wales railway. Whether the stone was naturally or artificially placed, its dislodgment was unpardonable; but the question arose, should the mischief be repaired? There was a difference of opinion on the subject; but it appeared to him that the charm and mystery attaching to the stone had perished with its dislodgment, and its restoration would be a simple unreality. Let us, then, not attempt to restore, but let us sedulously preserve all those remains of the past whose value is purely antiquarian or æsthetic, and which do not directly subserve any requirement of modern life; and let us, further, preserve everything, wherever the consideration was of any consequence, in its proper place. This latter remark had reference to the wholesale carrying off of statues, obelisks, and other monuments from the places where they were originally erected. "The Elgin marbles," said Mr. Freeman, "by being deposited in the British Museum, may, for aught we know, have done much to improve the British school of sculpture, but it has only been at a cost which every lover of Greece and Grecian art, every one whose heart leaps up at the very name of the first seat of literature and of freedom, must for ever consider as immeasurably too dear. The glorious temple they adorned was wantonly mutilated; the statues themselves can no longer be contemplated as the genius of Phidias designed: no longer forming the adornment of a great architectural whole; no longer preserving their appropriate distance from the eye, they have sunk into mere specimens of antiques. Let it be that they have been brought into a place of safety, and sheltered from the further mutilations which they might have undergone during the storm of revolution which has swept over their native land: let it be that the cannon of the infidel might have here and there swept away a leg or an arm which had survived through so many assaults of time and the barbarian: yet liberated Greece might have looked upon the proudest monument of her ancient freedom, shattered and ruined, indeed, by the work of ages, but at least spared this most wanton and irremediable mutilation. The Temple of Athens is no more: it exists no longer in its integrity: none can now contemplate that wonderful blending of various arts in one harmonious whole: the architecture and the sculpture are disjoined, and the whole they united to form has thereby perished for ever. And the regret with which I regard the removal of the peerless works of the Grecian chisel I would extend, in an infinitely smaller degree, to the uncouth productions of the barbarians of the East. Far be it from me to place the honoured name of Layard in the same class with the destroyer of the Parthenon:

'Eratostratus and Elgin'

must retain that bad pre-eminence in which the indignant poet has so happily conjoined them; still I cannot conceal my conviction that a more genuine love and reverence for antiquity would have allowed the sculptures of Nineveh, at whatever risk, to repose in their native land, while our curiosity in this distant island had been gratified by drawings and models alone. No traveller can now again behold in their glory the palaces of the Assyrian despot any more than the fairest shrine of Hellenic freedom: none can again contemplate the general effect of an architecture which trusted so much more than any other to the effect of its sculptured decoration. And even the practical argument cannot apply in this case: winged bulls and eagle-headed kings are surely mere antiquities, in the very strictest sense. It cannot be that, with the wonders of Grecian and Teutonic skill before us, we are to derive new lessons of art from the miscreated monsters of Oriental phantasy."*

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY.

OUR readers will scarcely be surprised at the announcement by Lord John Russell, of the intention of her Majesty's Government not to proceed with their Bill for the better supply of water to the metropolis this session. We cannot say that we regret the decision; for, looking at the scheme as a whole, it lacked that comprehensiveness which is so much to be desired in sanitary measures, and was by far too costly. Its promoters were not sufficiently careful of the health and well-being of the consumers; that is to say, the two millions and a half of human creatures dwelling in London, to whom good water is denied, and who are even stinted in the quantity of liquid filth which it is the interest of these corporate bodies to supply.

With the character and general features of Government measures, our readers are sufficiently well acquainted to render recapitulation of them unnecessary; and they will doubtless readily concur in the belief, or at least hope, that its postponement will lead to the omission of the objectionable clauses, and the substitution for them of others more consonant with the feelings of the population, and better adapted to their wants.

This delay, therefore, will permit of ample time being given to the consideration of the various schemes and suggestions put forth by private parties, and allow of any useful features they present being engrafted on the original measure. Indeed, we see no just or valid reason why the whole should not be entirely recast.

The great obstacles that have been raised by the agents of water companies, forced the Government, we fear, to propose what, after all, they admit to be, in spite of its great expense, an inefficient remedy for the present supply, to this city, of water alike defective in quantity and quality. But the determined opposition of the metropolitan representatives, and of those independent members—independent of the influence of parties whose monopolies were threatened—who have distinguished themselves by earnest advocacy of sanitary reform, has, without doubt, done good service. It has shown that the inhabitants of London, with the examples of Manchester, Liverpool, and even provincial towns of inferior pretensions before their eyes, are not disposed to submit longer to be coerced into payment of the highest price for the worst supply of the most important element in supporting life and promoting health.

If any change is to be made, in the necessity of which all parties concur, it must have for its chief and immediate object the supplying, in abundance, water of the purest and softest nature to the whole of the inhabitants of that huge conglomeration of dwellings which is termed London—from the wealthy denizen of the palaces of Belgravia to the poor and wretched inmates of the filthy hovels in Agar Town or Spitalfields. The supply must be cheap, always ready, and plentiful, not only for potable and domestic purposes, but for cleansing the persons and dwellings of the people,—aye, and the streets too.

A Bill which purposes to effect this will have the hearty support of all classes, with the exception, of course, of those whom it might be considered invidious to name; and when carried out would conduce more than any legislative measures that have preceded it to promote the health, well-being, and morality, of the working-classes.

During the time that will elapse before a Bill of this nature is framed and introduced into the House next session, we trust that the source and mode of supply of water to the metropolis will undergo re-investigation, and that it may be conceived in the most comprehensive manner.

It is universally admitted that for the future the source must be constant and at high pressure.

As regards the source, public opinion seems to be to a great extent in favour of the Board of Health scheme, for collecting rain-water issuing from the Surrey sands, which is pure, soft, consequently productive of economy in domestic use, and capable of being obtained more constantly and abundantly than from any of the other water-bearing strata around London. Yet, in spite of this favourable verdict, we think due provision should be made against contingencies, and that rival schemes should be fairly tested.

Provincial towns of less wealth, means, and importance than London have already led the way, and supplied their inhabitants with water of a refreshing and pellucid character, scarcely to be comprehended by those who are condemned to drink a liquid loaded with the sewage of a large town, and stored up for days fermenting till its loathsomeness is increased tenfold by the engenderment of things of impure natures and disgusting forms. Why should we hesitate to follow their examples, and avail ourselves of their experience to surpass them? The poor of Whitehaven, Bolton, Bury, Stockport, Paisley, and other towns are supplied with soft water derived from rainfall received on gathering grounds situate at a distance, and removed from the influence of soot or dirt; or from springs that deliver the rainfall, received on remote gathering grounds, in a pure and cool state in the vicinity of the cities.

The same, if not greater, facilities are at the command of Londoners. Within some twenty-five miles of our city are the Farnham sands, which every twenty-four hours yield 51,375,000 gallons of water, "of primitive purity, perfect as to aëration, of grateful temperature (about fifty degrees), brilliant in colour, and soft almost as distilled water." And yet we drink the sewage waters of the Thames, in some cases unfiltered, and the scarcely less impure waters of the New River and Lea!

* Many of the opinions expressed in this paper were warmly combatted by some who were present.

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